

Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project
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www.asapconnections.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Or see individual market contacts, below.

Tailgate Farmers Markets Open for the Season

ASHEVILLE, NC (March 23, 2009) – In April, farmers tailgate markets around the region begin to open. Visiting a tailgate market is a great way to enjoy the spring weather and celebrate the beginning of the growing season. Shop for the freshest local food and make a day of free activities such as live music, tastings, and cooking demonstrations.

Spring crops include asparagus, peas, spinach, lettuce, kale, bok choy, arugula, other greens, onions, mushrooms, and radishes. Many tailgate markets offer nursery plants and transplants, seedlings for you to plant in your own garden. Shop for breads, hand pies, scones, muffins, cinnamon buns, mini-cupcakes, strawberry rhubarb tarts, and other baked goods, both sweet and savory. Eggs, cheeses, beef, pork, chicken, jams, relishes, salad dressings, honey, handmade pasta and crafts are available at tailgate markets throughout the season.

Tailgate markets are also community gathering places. Julie Mansfield of Mountain Harvest Organics farm, who sells fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs, and flowers at North Asheville Tailgate Market, invites families who have never shopped at a farmers market to try it. “It’s an inexpensive family outing. The market offers great outdoor space for children. And you may be surprised by how comparable tailgate market and grocery store prices are, and amazed by the flavor of the fresh produce.” North Asheville Tailgate Market opens on Saturday, April 18.

The Asheville City Market will also open on April 18, with special attractions. Chef Anthony Cerrato of Fiore’s Ristorante Toscana and chef Tres Hundertmark of The Lobster Trap will offer cooking demonstrations at 10:00 and 11:30a.m. Harpist Kathleen Slattery will perform throughout the morning. Find information about other tailgate markets’ special events and updates on in-season produce at www.buyappalachian.org.

See the following list for opening dates and information on more than 40 tailgate markets throughout Western North Carolina. Each market’s opening date is different. More markets open throughout the season.

Alleghany County

Alleghany County Farmers Market

Locally grown produce, food items, plants, jams and jellies, honey, baked goods, cider, molasses, syrup, and herb vinegars.

Where: County Fairgrounds, Hwy. 21 North, Sparta.

When: Sat., 8:00am-12:00pm

Contact: 336-372-5597

Open: June 7-September 27

Ashe County

Ashe County Farmers Market

Everything is locally made and grown. Local meat and eggs, produce, fruit, breads, mushrooms, jams, pottery, fine art, birdhouses and feeders, soap, honey and molasses. Sat. market starts in Apr. Wed. market starts Jul. 8. Holiday markets Nov. 21, 28, Dec. 5, 12.

Where: Backstreet runs parallel to the main shopping district of West Jefferson. The market is located directly across from Pet Tails pet shop and the Western Jefferson western clothing store.

When: Wed., 8:00am-1:00pm, Sat., 8:00am-1:00pm

Contact: 336-977-4735, info@ashefarmersmarket.com

www.ashefarmersmarket.com

Open: April 11-October 31

Buncombe County

Asheville City Market

Downtown Asheville's producer-only market featuring local food from local farmers including farm-fresh produce, local eggs, savory meats and fish, brick oven breads, delicious pastries, handmade pasta, gourmet cheeses, hot sauces, and fruit butters and preserves, as well as natural body care products, artisan art and crafts, nursery plants, mountain herbs, and cut flowers.

Where: At the Public Works Building, 161 S. Charlotte St., Asheville.

When: Sat., 8:00am-1:00pm

Contact: Mike McCreary, 828-348-0340, mike@asapconnections.org

www.asapconnections.org/special/citymarket/

Open: April 18-December 19

Big Ivy Tailgate Market

Eggs, meat, honey, fresh-roasted coffee beans, veggies, crafts, special events, and more. Vendors welcome.

Where: Parking lot of old fire station, on Hwy 197 across from the post office, Barnardsville.

When: Sat., 9:00am-noon

Contact: Kate Mathews, kmathews@barnardsville.com

Open: May 2-October 24

Black Mountain Tailgate Market

Our market is a seasonal Sat. morning community event with an array of vendors including mostly organic and sustainable growers of produce, plants, flowers, and herbs; bakers and other food artisans; and other local arts including pottery, jewelry, fabrics, candles, soaps, and lotions. It's a family event every Sat. from Mother's Day to the end of Oct.

Where: 500 Montreat Rd. (Hwy 9 N. at exit 64 off I-40), yard of UU Congregation, Black Mountain.

When: Sat., 9:00am-noon

Contact: 828-582-5039, meredithleighmckissick@gmail.com

Open: May 9-October 31

French Broad Food Coop Saturday Tailgate Market

Asheville's original all organic tailgate market, serving Asheville on Sat. mornings since 1990. You will find freshly picked organic vegetables, fruits, berries, herbs, and flower bouquets, plus garden, herb, and landscaping plants. Local honey, freshly baked breads from a wood fired brick oven, vegan and non-vegan baked treats, eggs, pies, goat cheese, and locally raised meats.

Where: 76 Biltmore Ave., next to the French Broad Food Co-op, Asheville.

When: Sat., 8:00am-1:00pm

Contact: 828-255-7650

Open: April 12-October 25

Greenlife Sunday Afternoon Tailgate Market

Local farmers offering organically grown farm fresh produce, herbs, fresh cut flowers, plant starts, and locally made crafts. Fresh cut flower bouquets, vegetable, flower, and herb plant starts. Fresh baked breads and desserts. Locally harvested honey and fresh eggs.

Where: Grassy area off parking lot of Greenlife Grocery, 70 Merrimon Ave., Asheville.

When: Sun., 1:00pm-5:00pm

Contact: Clare Schwartz, 828-254-5440

Open: May 3-October 25

Indoor Tailgate Market at Appalachian Vintner

Asheville's only indoor tailgate market, held at our wine and beer store, which includes a local market filled with only local products from the Appalachian mountains.

Where: At Appalachian Vintner, 2-B Huntsman Place, behind Biltmore Fitness, Asheville.

When: Sat., 10:00am-3:00pm

Contact: CW Alexander, 828-505-7500

Open: all year

Mission Hospital Tailgate Market

The Madison Family Farms tailgate market features fresh fruits, vegetables, and homemade goods from more than one dozen Madison County farmers. Produce includes organic and conventional fruits and vegetables. Other items include eggs, cheese, breads, honey, jam, jelly, and dressing.

Where: Near the side entrance to the Mission Hospital Heart Center on the Memorial Campus.

When: Thu., 10:00am-2:00pm

Contact: Catherine Walker, 828-649-2411, www.madisonfarms.org

North Asheville Tailgate Market

The area's oldest market, we have over 30 members who offer a wide variety of products, from gourmet organic vegetables to old-timey favorites like half runner beans and fried pies. We offer fresh cut flowers, berries, baked goods, breads, bedding and native plants, honey, mushrooms, farm fresh eggs, natural meats, and cheese.

Where: From Merrimon Ave. in Asheville, take UNCA Main Entrance on WT Weaver Blvd., first right after rotary.

When: Sat., 8:00am-noon

Contact: Paul Littman, 828-712-4644

www.NorthAshevilleTailgateMarket.org

Open: April 18-December 20

Riceville Tailgate Market

Homegrown goodness. Enjoy the community atmosphere, music, and beautiful setting of our market, which features local products. We offer sustainably-grown fruits and vegetables, as well as eggs, Warren Wilson College sausage, herbs, cut flowers, potted plants, honey, chocolate, fresh baked goods, and handmade crafts and products.

Where: In the parking lot of the Riceville Community Center, next door to the Riceville Volunteer Fire Department.

When: Sat., 9:00am-noon

Contact: Maggie Hopper, 828-298-6549

Open: May 23-September 19

Weaverville Tailgate Market

Midweek tailgate market featuring a variety of local vendors, selling only items they grew or made themselves. Offering fruits and vegetables, a full line of baked goods, preserves, eggs, meat, goat cheese, mushrooms, native plants, flowers, and transplants. Also shop for fiber arts, jewelry, wood products, and music from local artisans. Great child-friendly atmosphere at beautiful Lake Louise.

Where: At Lake Louise, on Weaverville Hwy., just south of the town of Weaverville.

When: Wed., 2:30pm-6:30 pm

Contact: Melissa Harwin, 828-450-0708

Open: April 29-October

Wednesday Afternoon Downtown Tailgate Market

The Wednesday Afternoon Downtown Tailgate Market features all organic vegetables, fruits and berries, honey, freshly baked breads and desserts, goat cheese, jams, vinegars, farm fresh eggs, natural meats, fresh fish, and seafood.

Where: 76 Biltmore Avenue, Asheville, in the parking lot next to the French Broad Food Coop, across the street from Laurey's Catering.

When: Wed., 2:00pm-6:30pm

Contact: Alex Brown, 828-683-1607

Open: April 29-December 23

West Asheville Tailgate Market

The place to shop on Wed. afternoons. Vendors' tables are abundantly stocked with an array of locally raised vegetables, flowers, cheeses, fruits, pork, and eggs. Other booths display plant starts for your gardens and landscape, body care products, and much more.

Where: On the grassy area at the rear of parking lot for West End Bakery and Haywood Road Market, West Asheville.

When: Wed., 3:30pm-6:30pm

Contact: Diana Cerce, 828-281-9099, diana@urbanoasisofasheville.com

Open: April 15-October 28

Burke County

Burke County Farmers Market

Fruits and vegetables sold at the market are locally grown in Burke County. This is a true farmers market so selections will vary with the season. General garden vegetables, local peaches and apples, baked goods, fresh eggs.

Where: In parking lot across from Town Hall, Valdese.

When: Wed., 9:00am-noon, Fri., 2:00pm-6:00pm

Contact: Donna Teasley, 828-439-4460, donna_teasley@ncsu.edu

Open: May 22-October 30

Morganton Farmers Market

This market is located in downtown Morganton featuring fresh fruits and vegetables, homemade desserts, and baked goods from local farms. Specialty mushrooms, goat cheese, and seasonal fruit and vegetable tarts are offered.

Where: Located just behind Geppetto's Pizza on Beach Street. Exit 105 off I-40. Take Hwy 18N and turn right on Beach Street, Morganton.

When: Tue., noon-5:00pm, Sat., 8:00am-1:00pm

Contact: Sharon Jablonski, 828-438-5252, downtownmorganton@compascable.net
www.downtownmorganton.com

Open: May 23-October 31

Caldwell County

Caldwell County Tailgate Market

Wide variety of locally grown fresh fruits and produce in-season, baked goods, and crafts.

Where: At the Caldwell County main library in Lenoir.

When: Sat., 6:00 am-noon
Contact: 828-758-0729
Open: May 2-October 31

Lenoir Bluegrass Farmers Market

The Bluegrass Farmers Market offers a unique combination of fresh, locally grown produce and locally grown bluegrass musicians. Live music begins at 10:00am. Visit us at www.thebluegrassmarket.com today to see what produce is being sold and which musicians are playing.

Where: Located in historic downtown Lenoir at the Hog Waller stage.

When: Sat., 8:00am-noon

Contact: Ben Willis, 828-292-4664

www.thebluegrassmarket.com

Open: April 18-early Fall

Cherokee County

Andrews Farmers Market

Join us for fun, music, and community every summer Sat. morning from 8:00am-noon (or when we sell out, which happens every week).

Where: First Street in Andrews, NC, 20 minutes west of Nantahala Gorge.

When: Sat., 8:00am-noon

Contact: Eric Carlson, 828-321-2006, www.andrewsfarmersmarket.com

Open: June 1-November 20

Cedar Valley Farmers Market

Downtown Murphy every Sat. morning from 10:00am-2:00pm. Local organic produce and many incredible crafts: wood turned bowls, pottery, spun wool, soaps, jams, jellies, and boiled peanuts. Balloons for the kids and live music. Market opens first Sat. in Apr. until last Sat. in Oct.

Where: Downtown Murphy on the square. In the pocket parks on the corners of Peachtree and Tennessee streets.

When: Sat., 10:00am-2:00pm

Contact: Jeremiah Smith, 828-361-7505

Open: April 4-October 31

Clay County

Mountain Valley Farmers Market

Local farmers and growers come together every Sat. morning with fresh seasonal produce, herbs, soap, plants, honey, salsa, jelly, jam, flowers, homemade baked goods, and other homegrown and handcrafted items.

Where: Old Courthouse Square in downtown Hayesville.

When: Sat., 8:00am-noon

Contact: Clay Joppie, 828-389-3022

Open: May 2-October 31

Graham County

Graham County Farmers Market

The Graham County Farmers Market sells goods that are homegrown or homemade. A wide array of local fruits, vegetables, and plants are available May-Oct.

Where: United Community Bank parking lot next to Ingles in Robbinsville.

When: Sat., 8:30am-1:00pm

Contact: Beverly Whitehead, 828-479-8788

www.smnpa.org

Open: May 2-October 31

Haywood County

Canton Tailgate Market

Locally grown fruits, vegetables, flowers, plants, and honey. Farmers from Haywood County.

Where: At the town hall in the municipal parking lot on Park Street, Canton.

When: Tue., Thu., 8:00am-noon

Contact: 828-235-2760

www.cantonnc.com

Open: June 2-September 29

Haywood's Historic Farmers Market

The new market, which opened Sept. 3, 2008, will continue offering locally grown fresh produce, herbs, and perennials beginning Wed., May 13, 2009. Value-added products including breads, baked goods, meat, eggs, cheese, jams, jellies, and preserves will also be offered, as well as heritage craft items.

Where: In Waynesville at the HART Theater parking lot on Pigeon Street (Hwy. 276).

When: Wed., Sat., 8:00am-1:00pm

Contact: 828-627-3469, haywoodfarmersmarket@gmail.com

www.waynesvillefarmersmarket.com

Open: May 13-October 31

Waynesville Tailgate Market

Seasonal fresh fruits and vegetables, plants, herbs, cut flowers, and nursery stock.

Where: At the American Legion, just off S. Main St., behind Bogart's, Waynesville.

When: Wed., 8:00am-noon, Sat., 8:00am-noon

Open: May 20-October 31

Henderson County

Flat Rock Tailgate Market

Fresh local and regional produce that is homegrown predominantly by organic, chemical free and/or sustainable agricultural practices of the highest quality. Also available: fresh seafood, goat cheese, herbs, flowers, fruits and berries, wild and cultivated mushrooms, baked goods, jams and relishes, honey, and annual and perennial bedding plants.

Where: Located in the parking area behind the Hand in Hand Gallery in Flat Rock on the Greenville Hwy., just south of the Flat Rock Play House.

When: Thu., 3:00pm-6:00pm

Contact: 828-698-8775, theglassylady@bellsouth.net

Open: May 7-November 5

Henderson County Tailgate Market

Local, organic, and conventional produce, bedding plants, flowers, herbs, baked goods, canned goods, and eggs.

Where: 100 N. King Street (between First and Second Avenues) in downtown Hendersonville.

When: Sat., 7:00am-noon

Contact: Melinda Hill , 828-685-9782

Open: April 11-mid November

Hendersonville Curb Market

A co-op of 100 families selling plants, dried flowers, jams, local fruits, and vegetables, cut flowers, fresh baked breads, cakes, candy, soap, and folk crafts. Everything is homemade, handmade, and produced in Henderson County, NC.

Where: Church St.(US 25 South), Hendersonville, directly across from the old courthouse.

When: Tue., Thu., Sat., 8:00am-2:00pm

Contact: Elaine Staton, 828-692-8012

www.curbmarket.com

Open: open all year

Jackson County

Cashiers Tailgate Market

First year local farmers market in Cashiers. Organic, local, fresh vegetables, fruits, baked goods, jellies, fruit pies, honey.

Where: Cashiers Community Center on Hwy 107 between Cashiers and Highlands.

When: Wed., 1:00pm-6:00 pm, Sat., 7:00am-1:00pm

Contact: Donna Few, 828-230-4785, bearfootgrandonna@yahoo.com

Open: May-October

Jackson County Farmers Market

The Jackson County Farmers Market is open from May-Oct. Located on Mill St. in downtown Sylva. We feature only locally grown produce and products. Most of our growers use organic practices.

Where: In the municipal parking lot next to Bridge Park, downtown Sylva.

When: Sat., 9:00am-noon

Contact: Susannah Patty, 828-507-1146, sylvafarmersmarket@gmail.com

Open: May 2-October 31

Macon County

Franklin Tailgate Market

Selling only homegrown fruits, vegetables, herbs, cut flowers, plants, eggs, locally made cheese, trout, and honey.

Where: West Palmer Street, across the street from the old post office, between the barber shop and the antique store, Franklin.

When: Sat., 8:00am-noon
Contact: Alan Durden, 828-349-2046
Open: June 6-October 31

Madison County

Madison County Farmers & Artisans Market

Fresh local vegetables, fruit, herbs, plants, eggs, goat cheese, honey, brick oven breads, English muffins, cookies, cakes, jams, pickles, salsa, eggs, dressings, and vinegars. Local arts and crafts including wind chimes, jewelry, dried flowers, fiber art, salves, and soaps. Live music every week. Accept EBT, credit, and debit cards.

Where: Mars Hill. Take exit 11 off 26W. Go west on 213 to Mars Hill College.

Dormitory Drive is a road on the left.

When: Sat., 9:00am-1:00pm

Contact: Melissa Harwin, 828-680-9890, melisue2u@yahoo.com

Open: April 4-November 14

Sundays on the Island

Come visit our local producer-only farmers market located on Marshall's beautiful shaded island in the middle of the French Broad River. A wide variety of produce is available, as well as eggs, goat cheese, natural meat, honey, mushrooms, bread and pastries, potted plants, flowers, beverages, live music, and arts and crafts. Enjoy walking paths, basketball court, and live music.

Where: Cross the river at the Courthouse on Main Street in downtown Marshall and immediately turn right onto the island.

When: Sun., noon-4:00pm

Contact: 828-649-9259

Open: April 19-November

McDowell County

Historic Marion Tailgate Market

Local grower market in the municipal parking lot with easy, accessible parking.

Where: One block from Main Street in a municipal parking lot, Marion.

When: Tue., 3:00pm-6:00pm

Contact: 828-652-2215, freddiek@verizon.net

Open: June 23-September 17

Mitchell County

Bakersville Farmers Market

We offer a variety of fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables produced through both conventional and alternative practices. We also offer jams, jellies, wildflower honey, fresh baked goods, free-range eggs, goat cheese, local crafts, fresh and dried herbs, plant starts, and flowers. Season runs May 23-Oct.31. Come join us.

Where: In the Bakersville Community Medical Clinic parking lot, opposite the US Post Office.

When: Sat., 8:00am-noon

Contact: 828-688-4683

Spruce Pine Farmers Market

Featuring vendors from Avery, Mitchell, and Yancey counties. Selling produce, eggs, bread and baked goods, jams, jellies, and goat cheese. Open from the end of May to end of Oct.

Where: On Pollyanna's Porch, next to Wildflowers, on Upper Street in downtown Spruce Pine.

When: Wed., 2:30pm-5:30 pm

Contact: 828-467-2171, rambomohr@verizon.net

Open: May 27-October 28

Polk County

Polk Tailgate Market

Wide variety of locally-grown fresh fruits and produce in season. Other products available: eggs, honey, cut flowers, ornamentals, as well as handmade crafts.

Where: Courthouse Street in front of the historic Polk County Courthouse.

When: Sat., 8:00am- 11:30am

Contact: 828-894-2281, lsprague@polknc.org

Open: April 4-November 14

Tryon Tailgate Market

Wide variety of locally grown fresh fruits and produce in season.

Where: Located across the railroad tracks from the Tryon Theatre, Columbus.

When: Wed., 4:30pm-6:30pm

Contact: 828-894-2281, lsprague@polknc.org

Open: June 4-September 24

Rutherford County

FLAP Market-Fresh Local Art & Produce Market

It's a lively combination of the best parts of an art show and farmers market. You'll find fresh local produce and local artists next to The Beach in beautiful Lake Lure. Apr. 21-Sep. 29, 2009.

Where: Located on Hwy 64/74A/9 just east of the Lake Lure Beach, next to the ABC Store.

When: Tue., 8:00am-1:00pm

Contact: 828-691-5009, ken@lakeguys.com

www.FLAPMarket.com

Open: April 21-September 29

Rutherford County Farmers Market

Wide variety of locally grown fresh fruits, herbs, and vegetables in season.

Where: From Business Highway 74 in Spindale, turn onto Fairgrounds Road. White pole barn 1/4 mile on the right.

When: Tue., Fri., 7:00am-noon

Contact: 828-287-6080

Open: June 29-October 30

Swain County

Cherokee Farmers Tailgate Market

Local farmers and gardeners provide fresh local produce on a weekly basis. Look for organic and heirloom produce.

Where: Located on Acquoni Road in downtown Cherokee. From NC 19 turn onto Acquoni Road Drive. Travel about 1 mile and look for farmers market sign.

When: Fri., 10:00am-2:00pm

Contact: Tammara Cole, 828-554-6931

Open: June 1-November 11

Swain County Tailgate Market

The Swain County Tailgate Market is located in downtown Bryson City near the Smoky Mountain Railroad, every Sat. morning. We have an array of vendors, including organic and sustainable growers of produce, plants, herbs, and honey. The market will be open from the first Sat. in Jun. until the last Sat. in Sep.

Where: On Mitchell St. in Bryson City at the parking lot of the Administration Building.

When: Sat., 8:00am-noon

Contact: 828-488-3848, christine_bredenkamp@ncsu.edu

Open: June-September

Transylvania County

Transylvania Tailgate Market

Local growers offer a wide variety of certified organic and conventional vegetables, fruits, and herbs. Also available are annuals, perennials, shrubs, trees, cut flowers, day lilies, and garden transplants. Vendors have honey, baked goods, coffee, jams, jellies, pickles, goat cheese, eggs, meat, plus handmade arts and crafts of all kinds.

Where: Located in the parking lot behind South Broad Park next to the library on Broad Street, Brevard.

When: Tue., Thu., Sat., 7:00am-1:00pm

Contact: 828-884-9483, hhfarm@citcom.net

Open: April 18-December 19

Watauga County

Valle Crucis Farmers Market at Mast General

We have flowers, canned goods, veggies, and crafts available every Wed. starting in Jun.

Where: Behind the Mast General Store in Valle Crucis

When: Wed., 1:00pm-4:00pm

Contact: 828-963-6511

Open: June-October

Watauga County Farmers Market

Over 75 vendors offer local produce, plants, home-baked goods, and hand-made crafts. The Watauga County Farmers Market has been in operation in Boone since 1974. Come

and visit Sat. mornings from May through Oct. and Wed. mornings mid-Jun. through mid-Sep.

Where: At the Horn in the West Amphitheater, on Hwy. 105 Ext., Boone, turn next to First Cit. Bank.

When: Wed., Sat., 8:00am-noon

Contact: Karen Bauman, 828-355-4918, guide09@wcfm.info

www.wcfm.info

Open: May 2-October 31

Yancey County

Yancey County Farmers Market

The market provides high quality, fresh farm produce, and farm related products. All products sold are locally grown/prepared, mostly from farms using natural and organic farming techniques.

Where: The market is located at South Main Street at Hwy 19E in Burnsville.

When: Sat., 8:30am-12:30pm

Contact: Robert Thompson, 828-682-0601

Open: April 18-October 31

ABOUT THE APPALACHIAN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROJECT

ASAP is helping to rebuild the local economy, preserve rural land and heritage, encourage sustainable agricultural practices, and increase access to fresher, healthier foods. We work to keep farmers farming and to reconnect people with their food. We involve businesses, shoppers, chefs, children, seniors, healthcare providers, teachers, and all community members in the local food movement.

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